

The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association



Vibrations

THE OSA SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER!

Load up the sleigh, pack up the kids and head to Brookfield in December. Santa is coming to town as the children's Christmas party kicks off the holiday season for OSA members.

This year's event will be held on Sunday, December 6, 1998. 1:00 - 3:00pm at the Hollywood Community House on the corner of Hollywood and Washington, in Brookfield. Located 1 1/2 blocks west of 1st Avenue, it is easily accessible from the Stevenson or Eisenhower Expressways.

Children will enjoy games, Christmas carols, cookies, and a visit from old St. Nick himself. Bring a small wrapped present for your child to receive from Santa.



**Please RSVP to Beth Rychtanek
(847) 695-6751 by Dec. 1st and join the fun.**

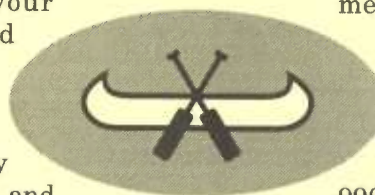
POST 9900 PLANS A CANOE TRIP

by: Jack Newell

Owasippe's Explorer Post 9900 is planning to take a canoe trip to the Boundary Waters. The trip will most likely take place around the last week in May or the first week in June, 1999.

The outfitters of choice will be the Canadian Border Outfitters (CBO), the same outfitters used by my troop. Basically you could show up in your underwear, and they would take care of you, and at a decent price. The Post won't be using the BSA canoe base because it's already booked. Also, BSA requires and supplies guides no matter what, which costs extra. CBO only supplies a guide if you request one.

The trip is open to Post members and Owasippe enthusiasts alike. You are invited to join the Post on it's first major excursion. The more the merrier, in fact, the bigger the group, the better the price.



I'd also like to make it clear, that girls are more than welcome on this trip. Crews with girls under eighteen will need a 21 year old chaperone in each.

This is an official Explorer Post outing, therefore, there will be no inappropriate behavior tolerated, you know what I mean. This is a good opportunity for Post 9900 members to bond in the great outdoors. This gives us the chance to do something as a group of friends, off the reservation without the pressures of camp. A Post 9900 adventure is long over due, and you're invited to be a part of it. Watch for more details as they become available. If there are any questions please feel free to contact me at:

email: DrGonzo16@aol.com

phone: 630-469-6149

address: 3 S 330 Ironwood Dr. • Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Cherish is the Word

by: Pat Monahan

One day this summer, I encountered a scouter and former camp staff member who remembered the good old days. A mild critic of the present, he spoke with reverence for the past, citing such examples from his day as the good food and smooth service. At the time I looked puzzled. You see, I was a director the year this gentleman worked on staff, and I remember the food as awful, soy burgers and runny chop suey, and the service was nothing to write home about either. Still, I sometimes feel the same way about Owasippe. Surely, our best days are behind us.

While I may sometimes feel it, I don't believe it, not for a second. I just completed my third year on staff at OSR after a 19-year absence, and when I was asked to write an article for the Vibrations, I liked the idea. I asked, "would it be okay if I described some of the ways Owasippe has improved over the years?" That's right, an article about camp that isn't all doom and gloom!

The food at Owasippe has never been better. Lunch meat looks and tastes like ham, and the quantity of food is enormous. No more wax beans and monopoly house-shaped beets. We've returned to family style feeding, and our kitchens are staffed by three food service workers, a far cry from the one server of years ago. Storerooms are no longer locked, and staffs have access to snack foods and juice boxes. The food service even supports our scoutmaster functions and supplies all the paper goods we need.

Today we are using the property in ways we never have. Our Crown High Adventure Base has opened opportunities for backpacking throughout the Reservation and beyond, on the North Country Trail. We now canoe on the Manistee, Pere Marquette, and Pine Rivers as well as the White, and run tubing trips at Pines Point State Park. We provide the transportation for such trips, far different from 1969 when canoeists hiked down Cleveland Creek and canoed up river.

Our camp is also as safe as it has ever been. Our health lodge is well staffed with emergency personnel, and we have both phone and radio communication for

emergencies. All staff, eighteen and older, are trained in CPR, and every camp has several Red Cross first aiders. Our camps also meet a set of health and safety standards that far surpass any we had in the past. Our youth protection program is rigorous and comprehensive. OSR has never been safer.

Our equipment is as good or better than in the past. Our rifle ranges are equipped with 22s, shotguns, and black powder rifles. Many of you will remember the CO2 pop guns of the 70s. Ammunition today is plentiful and in most cases given freely to scouts. We aren't charging for every round nor filling shotgun shells at night. Rope, compasses, leather goods, we have an adequate supply to maintain our strong programs.

Our staffs are also larger, much larger than in the past. At Blackhawk in 1973, our staff numbered 24. In 1998, our staff numbered 36, with an additional eight CITs. A larger staff allows us to present a more diversified program. While staffs are generally younger today, every camp has highly experienced leaders. At Blackhawk, Bob Ward just completed his 13th season. At Carlen and Crown respectively, Pat Newell and Andy Gorz completed their 9th years. At Wolverine Jerry Lutz completed his 15th year. Chris Drazba at Reneker completed her 15th. And John Brown, at Ad Center, completed his 29th year. With such tenure comes the dedication and love of the camp we all remember from the past.

Owasippe is still one of the premier scout camps in the nation. Our natural resource, our heritage, and our commitment continue to make it the place all of us remember from our past. I love Owasippe's past, and I could listen to my friends such as Bill Lotter tell stories about it a million times (his wife should pause here). But we're still writing stories at Owasippe, good ones with heroes and strong plot lines. Legends of the moment assemble beside legends of the past.

Cherish each and every moment!



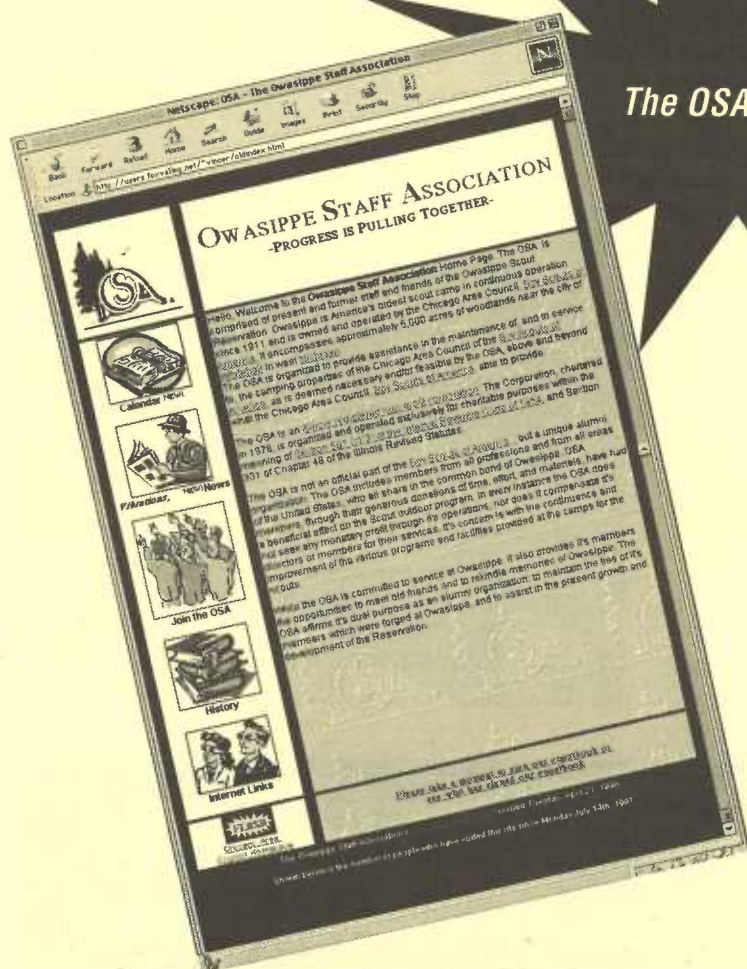
*Re-dedicate yourself to Owasippe.
Get involved, YOU can make a difference!*

\$5.00



This new collector's item Council Strip is the first in a series of three, leading up to the year 2000. Get yours while they last, because when they're gone, they're gone. The patch is available at The Council Camping Center. The cost is only \$5.00

To order: call 800.530.9566



The OSA Online

The OSA has an official home page on the Internet at:
<http://users.foxvalley.net/~vincer>

This homepage features information and news about the OSA and a calendar of events. It also carries news about Owaspippe, The Chicago Area Council as well as links of interest to OSA members. If you have access to the Internet, either at home through AOL, CompuServe, or Prodigy, or at work, please check it out.

The homepage has been visited over 2,400 times since last July. The Guestbook now has over 130 entries. Check it out and see who has checked in with the OSA.

The Chicago Area Council also has a homepage:
<http://www.chicago.scouting.org>

Good Times at the Annual Family Picnic

On August 23rd, we gathered once again for the OSA family picnic in the Theodore Stone Woods. This event is quickly becoming one of the most popular events of the year.

A large group of OSA members and current Owasppe staffers braved the sweltering heat to join in the fun. As a matter of fact, the number of current staffers in attendance nearly rivaled that of the OSA's (shall we say) older members on hand! What a good sign indeed. If we can only enlist all of these younger people into our ranks when they hit 18.



Board of Directors holds a "Town Hall Meeting"

In past years, the OSA has taken on major service projects up at Owasppe. Projects we could proudly hang our hats on. Projects like the construction of rifle ranges and shower houses. Projects that have had a direct and positive impact on the camp we all love. The Association would define an Owasppe need, draw the plans, estimate costs, raise funds for materials, start and finish projects. Our show, from beginning to end.

Well, the call has gone out. Our help is again needed. Owasppe needs the OSA more than ever. On December 16th the OSA Board of Directors is holding a special "Town Hall" style meeting. The meeting is open to the entire membership, and we encourage you to attend.

At the meeting, we plan to discuss the adoption of another major camp project. The bottom line is, we want your input, and we need your help. This is a great opportunity for you to see your votes at work. Members can voice their opinions, make suggestions or even join volunteer committees. Contact Art Paull at 773.445.2016 for the meeting time and location. Thanks, and remember, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Anyway, there was plenty of good food, cold drinks, field sports and children's games. Soccer has apparently become the new sport of choice, but the softball game was still the old favorite.

If you missed it, maybe we'll see you there next year. The OSA would like someone to volunteer to take over the coordination of the children's games for next year's picnic. The folks who have been doing them the last few years sure could use a break. If anyone is interested, please contact the Board of Directors. It's NEVER too early to volunteer.

You Can Help!

The Board of Directors would like to see you, the members, involved in the planning and coordination of our various events that are staged at all times of the year. It is a proven fact that an active group membership will flourish, but a membership that is limited in its participation will wither.

The process of building teams to coordinate and plan our activities is currently under way. Can't make it out of the city for work weekends? There are many areas where your time can be well spent working on in-city projects.

Teams are being formed that will cover fund-raising, annual dinner, picnic, work weekend projects and coordination, materials' donations, newsletter/notices/publications, new memberships, etc.

In your daily life, you run across people and organizations that can be introduced to the OWASIPPE STAFF ASSOCIATION. Write down their names and phone numbers and pass them along to the Board.

Please, if you've been laying back in the weeds for something to happen, step out into the light and help make it happen. Call your friendly Board of Directors and let them know you're ready to pitch in.

Hey! Are your OSA dues up to date?

Please send checks to: OSA, P.O. Box 7097 • Westchester, IL 60154



FALL FIX-IT WRAP-UP by: Scott Weber

September 18-20. Approximately 400 man-hours were volunteered by the OSA members, family, and invited guests.

For those members who were unable to be at Owasisippe for the Fall Fix-it, close your eyes and create an ideal summer's end weekend. Feel the coolness of the early fall evenings, the warmth of a strong sun, a fresh breeze hitting the leaves just beginning to show the colors of fall. Smell the earth. Then pinch yourself, because you were only dreaming. For 60+ OSA members, family and friends it was reality.

It was a typical fall fix-it list of projects; construction, destruction, clean-up and transport to storage, repair before winter, cabin clean-ups, and move the remnants of the spring storm damage out of the way. At the end of the day, people from all the job sites and projects agreed it had been a good day's work.

Special thanks go to Diane Posen for opening all the cabins, and to Larry O'Connor who assisted Diane and then stayed at the Reneker Lodge until midnight to assist with check-in. Also deserving a tip of the hat is the kitchen crew put together on short notice. More than a couple healthy belches were heard following meals, the food was hot and plentiful.

Saturday night's campfire was in the masterful hands of Jerry Brown, and after all the singing, and other insanity that accompanies an OSA campfire, was done, the glowing embers mesmerized those that stayed. The talk strayed from tales of travel to solving the world's great problems, with the appropriate mix of camp staff memories and other lies and exaggerations of the facts tossed in.

Winners of the "Look who showed up" award are Steve Mason and Kevin Joyce, who served on staff in the late '80's and early '90's. Both had not been back to Owasisippe for at least six years, but aren't going to wait that long again. They are already planning to be at the next fix-it in May.

There is always plenty of work that can be done during the off-season, and you don't have to wait for an OSA work weekend to go to Owasisippe and help out. Contact Tom Ewan at the Hoover Camping Center, (800) 530-9566, and they'll set you up with a cabin. Mike Drazba is your contact at Owasisippe for specific project assignments. If you have tools, be sure to bring them with you.

To all the OSA members who have traveled to Owasisippe in 1998 to participate in the fix-it week-ends, whether it was one or all three, thank you for your time and support. If you missed out this year, perhaps

1999 will be your year to return to Owasisippe in person, and not in a dream.

REVIEW OF FIX-IT PROJECTS

Here's the list of projects worked on during the work weekend of September 18 - 20, 1998. If the project you worked on is not listed, no slight of your time is intended, it was just missed.

- **STAFF VILLAGE** ~ Moved all the tree tops left on the ground from this past spring's wind storm to the roadside so they could be fed to the chipper at a later date, stacked logs large enough to be used for fires, cleaned up the ground area.
- **MAINTENANCE SHOP** ~ equipment and vehicle repairs.
- **HEALTH LODGE** ~ Fixed West wall under the windows, insulated and new panels put into place, other repairs inside.
- **VARIOUS LOCATIONS** ~ electrical maintenance and repairs, continued removal of hanging limbs and leaning trees from the windstorm.
- **BLACKHAWK** ~ Moved to storage at Food Prep dry goods boxes left in the kitchen storage room. Tore out the walls behind the kitchen, office and trading post area to prepare for installation of fire code walls, also to create a larger area for the staff to use during the summer. There will be some re-working of the layout of walls and rooms that should be a better use of available space.
- **RENEKER** ~ "B" side cabin cleanups included wiping down the counters and sinks, sweeping and mopping floors, shutting down the cabins. When everyone left Sunday from the "A" side cabins, those also were cleaned and made ready for winter by those who stayed in them for the weekend before leaving. Cabin B-11, which had a hole punched through the roof by a tree limb from last spring's storm had a new beam put into place, replacement tongue & groove ceiling pieces put in and then new insulation and roof plywood covered with felt paper in preparation for shingling. Throughout Reneker, as in staff village, treetops and brush were hauled out to the roadside to await the chipper.
- **FOOD PREP** ~ a whole lot of cookin' was going on.

Images from the Fall Fix-it, 1998.

(some projects not pictured)

*photos courtesy of:
Hans Anderson*





21 Questions

Q & A with Owasippe's Newest Chief

interview by: Ron Derby



For those of us living under a rock, Pat Monahan has been named the new Reservation Director of Owasippe. This is a big deal, because Pat is a founding member and former president of the OSA. In other words, he's one of our own. The first of his kind to achieve the position of Reservation Director. I consider Pat to be a good friend, so I asked him if I could pick his brain, so we could all get a better idea of what makes our new Reservation Director tick. Besides, inquiring minds want to know! Here's how it went:

Who is Pat Monahan?

I'm a teacher and English department head at Downers Grove South High school. I'm married to Linda Hanson, whom I met at Family Camp. We have three children. Tricia and Sean worked at Owasippe last summer, and Katie is a sixth grader. I've worked at Owasippe for 13 summers, and I'm active in troop 442 in Tinley Park.

What's your favorite Owasippe memory?

Probably Camp Pre. In the early 70's, along with Bill Lotter, Scott Weber, and Tiny Norman, we created a new staff under the bloodshot eyes of Leon Winkel. Never have so few played so hard and accomplished so little. Actually, we were pretty good for Owasippe. At least we thought so.

Which are your favorite summers on staff?

Stuart '69 with George Deslaurier, Stuart '72 with Bill Lotter and Kenny Yamamoto, Blackhawk in '74 with Rick Heitman and John Grout, and Blackhawk '96 with Ron Derby, Swoop Dellamano, John Sanchez, and Bob Ward. It's always the people I remember when I think of my favorite summers.

Which current Owasippe enthusiasts remind you of yourself in your younger days?

At Blackhawk, Nate Diekelman-edgy, pushing the envelope, a thorn in the side of his director, and Dave Sitz, he comes alive when the stage lights turn on. At Owasippe, Andy Gorz probably, every day is a new opportunity for silliness.

Congrats on being named Owasippe's Reservation Director. Is this something you've always wanted to do?

I suppose all of us in the OSA have wondered what we would do if we had the job, but I don't think I ever seriously considered becoming reservation director. I never thought of me as them. I'm still a bit surprised.

What one piece of experience or advice would you share with today's staff?

The very best staffs are those that hang out together. They take care of one another and include even the quirkiest characters. At Blackhawk in '73, fifteen guys used to get up at 6 a.m., jog ten miles and lift weights. They were nuts. They were also a great staff.

What do you see as your biggest challenge as Reservation Director?

Growing Leaders. We turn over staffs really quickly these days, most kids stay only 4 or 5 years. Our 3rd year staff need to be ready to step up and lead their staffs. We need to accelerate their learning.

What is Owasippe's biggest problem in a nutshell?

Losing sight of the big picture. We sometimes get too caught up in what's wrong and forget what's right and what we've come to camp to do. Thinking we're in a nutshell, that's our biggest problem.

Many people feel that you have brought Camp Blackhawk to a peak of prosperity. Aren't you at all afraid that when you move up to Ad Center something will be lost at BLHK?

I really worried about this when I left Blackhawk in '74, but the '75 staff under Jim Radloff was great. The same thing happened when Dan Vliet took over after me at Stuart in '78. It was pretty humbling to discover that I wasn't indispensable. A good leader, I think, should be able to disappear at some point. I hope no one at Blackhawk knows I'm gone.

Have you hired the Ad Center team and/or the camp directors?

Pete Klaeser, John Brown, Carol Young, and John Adamowski are returning to Ad Center. Bill Vamberschott will serve as Asst. Res. Director for Program and will be assisted by Marilyn Kulak. Swoop is taking over Blackhawk, Pat Newell returns to Carlen, Sue Oster will direct Reneker and Andy Gorz moves into Wolverine. Tom McLean and Jim Malabranche are returning in their positions.

Can you share any goals or plans you have for Owasisippe's immediate future?

The directors and I have met and we are committed to getting better. We've targeted COPE and shooting sports ranges. We'd like to continue our efforts to recruit and train staff. The food service needs improvement also. We also want to begin to plan for the summer of 2000. We need to use the off-season better if we want to improve our camps.

What do you think summer camp means to Scouts?

I saw camp through the eyes of my son in '94. He was a tenderfoot and filled with wonder, impressed by the big staff, racing down to the beach with his buddies for a swim. He giggled at the dumb skits and watched in awe as the twin fires soared into the heavens. Watching him is what brought me back to camp staff.

If you could tell Scout Leaders one thing before they came up to camp, what would it be?

Leave the city far behind, and discover that whole new life we talk about in the chant. Watch your kids grow.

Do you think scouting can survive with all of today's diversions like soccer or video games?

Whenever I doubt scouting's future, I look at guys like Ron Kulak. The scouting movement is filled with guys like Ron, always on the job, stubborn as hell, showing the rest of us what commitment means. No, scouting will be just fine.

What makes you think you can work well together with the powers that be (Director of Camping or Properties Manager for example) when others have struggled to do so?

Hey, I worked with Ed Black, how tough can this be? Seriously, I learned a long time ago that Owasisippe is filled with people with competing viewpoints. Facilities people, program people, Blackhawk people, Wolverine people, aquatics people, scoutcraft people. at the bottom, they all love Owasisippe. If we remember that and keep talking, we usually find some common ground.

What is your favorite color?

Khaki. No, Warda brown.

Should Clinton be impeached, or is it all nonsense?

Nonsense. Should Owasisippe offer First Aid merit badge?, now that's important.

If you could change one thing at Owasisippe what would it be?

We need to get Camp Carlen and the Crown High Adventure Base off the ground. We made some mistakes when we let Blackhawk and Wolverine get so big, almost 450 campers. The numbers are now coming down. With a strong Camp Carlen, we can maximize our facilities and program.

What do you see as the OSA's role in Owasisippe's future?

The OSA has never been more needed. Our experience and wisdom sets us up to provide much needed leadership to Owasisippe. Right now, the Council is committed to allowing volunteers to lead Owasisippe. Our efforts are bounded only by our resources and our imagination. It's an era of doing, not talking.

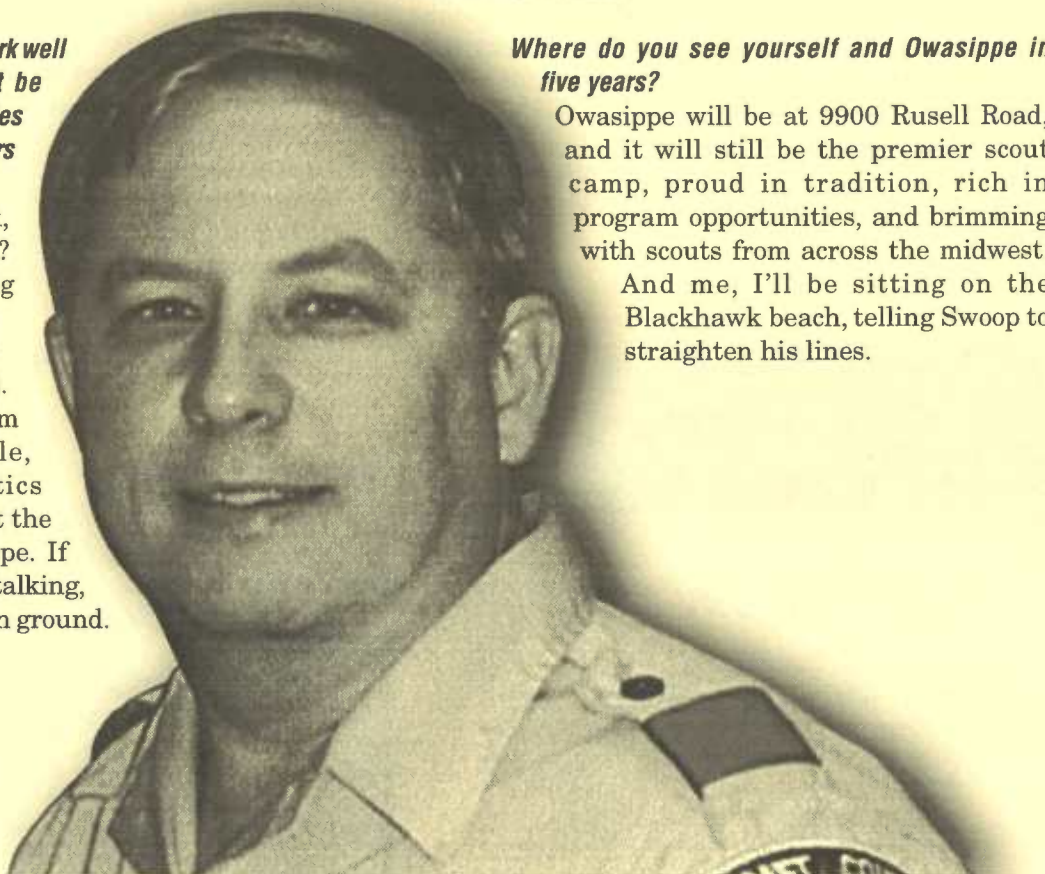
What can the average OSA member do to make a difference?

No one in the OSA is average. That's it's strength. So much talent and wisdom. Join one of our staff training teams. Become a volunteer at camp for a week. Return to staff for a summer. Send us ideas for new programs. Donate to one of the OSA's programs. The OSA is a godsend to us during the summer. Recruit staff in your troops and councils. Send us your children. Write an article for the Vibrations. I think everyone has something to offer.

Where do you see yourself and Owasisippe in five years?

Owasisippe will be at 9900 Rusell Road, and it will still be the premier scout camp, proud in tradition, rich in program opportunities, and brimming with scouts from across the midwest.

And me, I'll be sitting on the Blackhawk beach, telling Swoop to straighten his lines.



Galloping Grapevine



The following OSA members and ex-staffers have checked in with the OSA on the homepage or by mail;

Nick Kulak ~ Tinley Park, IL will be presented with the Eagle Scout Award on Saturday, November 28, and boy is Papa proud. Two more to go! Way to go Nick!

Tom & Tracy Patterson ~ had a baby boy! Kaleb Michael Patterson was born on September 22, 1998 at 6:12pm. Kaleb weighed in at 10 lbs. 2 oz, and was 22" long at birth. Congratulations go to the Patterson family.

Steve & Sue Tabert ~ had a baby girl! Samantha Therese Tabert was born on November 7, 1998 at 7:16am. Samantha weighed in at 7 lbs. 4 1/2 oz, and was 20" long at birth. Congratulations go to the Tabert & Kleinfeldt families.

Pat Foster ~ Dixon, IL For the first time in 17 years, I wasn't able to make at least one trip to Owaspippe this past summer. I had a mild heart attack on May 10th (Mother's Day). We also undertook a major remodeling project on our home in Dixon. Actually, we didn't take any trips this summer. We spend our winters near Winter Haven, FL. We bought a house there a little over 4 years ago. Our winter house has 25' windows overlooking the lake. We get lots of company! I miss seeing old friends & former staff members. It is a little too far to commute to the banquets however. With best regards, Pat.



Building A Better Staff

OSA Members Help to Secure Owaspippe's Future

As many of you probably know, the OSA proudly supports the C.I.T. (Counselors In Training) program at Owaspippe. This vital program gives all incoming 15 year old staff people a fighting chance at having a great Owaspippe experience. The week of training is designed to fully prepare new staffers for a challenging/rewarding summer up at Owaspippe. The kids hike all the trails, eat at least one meal at every section camp, take a canoe trip on the White River and even go horseback riding. In between all of this adventure, the C.I.T.s are taught just about everything they'll need to know, from how to wash their uniforms, all the way through merit badge counseling techniques.

To carry on this great tradition, the C.I.T. program needs your help. Frank works very hard raising funds to make it all possible. We use the funds donated by the OSA members, to buy things like patches, hats, equipment, printed materials, and so on. We can't do it without your help. Everyone who donates to the program, will receive the above patch (in full color of course). This patch is an exclusive, as it is only awarded to graduating C.I.T.s, the C.I.T. trainers, and those who donate to the program. We're already preparing for next summer. Help us to keep the dream alive.

**Send all contributions to: Staff Development
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154**

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Vibrations reaches over 400 Association members and their families four times a year! Read our next issue for details about advertising opportunities. Business card sized ad space will be made available. Rates and specifications to be announced.

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Address all such materials to:
Vibrations Editor • P.O. Box 7097 • Westchester, IL 60154
e-mail: vincer@foxvalley.net or rderby@xbx.com

Off Season Use at Owasippe

Cabins are available for rent at Owasippe this fall and winter. 15 Gray Staff Village cabins, 2 Lake Cabins, and the Health Lodge are available for groups up to 40 people. Gray Staff Village cabins cost \$35 per night to rent. Also available will be linens and cooking utensils for rent. The price will probably be in the \$25-\$30 range for linens and utensils. This winter, in conjunction with a local outfitter, cross-country ski packages will also be available. Just call Owasippe by the Wednesday before you plan to arrive, with your

request. Give them your shoe size, height and weight. Your skis and poles will be waiting in your cabin when you get there. Another attraction is horseback riding at Owasippe. If you request it in advance, a local stable will bring the horses & gear to Owasippe for your trail ride. Try a western weekend, groups of ten minimum can enjoy an entire weekend of camping & trail riding as well as a bonfire on Friday and a social on Saturday. Both of these programs will be available for a very reasonable fee.

Owasippe Staff Association
1998
Board of Directors

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616-364-7388



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*I hereby submit my request to register as a member
and my support of the OSA's purpose*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Birthdate: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Service at Owasippe:

Year	Camp	Position

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Marital Status: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Children's Names & Ages: _____

Mail to:
OSA
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154
attn: Membership

New Member \$15 _____
Renewal \$10 _____
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*The Owasippe Staff Association
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Westchester, IL 60154*



Vibrations is published four times per year by the Owasippe Staff Association.

The opinions stated by contributors to *Vibrations* are those of the authors, and are not by fact of publication necessarily those of the Owasippe Staff Association or its Board of Directors. Publication does not imply endorsement. All materials are subject to editing.

Manuscripts, photographs and artwork are encouraged. Address all such materials to: *Vibrations Editor, P.O. Box 7097, Westchester, IL 60154*. All materials which the author wants returned, must be accompanied by a self addressed stamped envelope.

Deadlines for submitting materials for publication are as follows:

- Spring - April 16
- Summer - July 16
- Fall - October 16
- Winter - December 16

Dates of Interest to OSA Members

November

18..... *Board of Directors Meeting*

December

6..... *Children's Christmas Party*

16..... *Board of Directors Meeting (open to all members)*

January

16..... *Vibrations Copy Deadline*

20..... *Board of Directors Meeting*

March

6..... *Annual Meeting & Dinner Dance (location TBA)*